

**RULES AND REGULATIONS  
FOR  
WATER AND SEWER SERVICE**

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY  
VIRGINIA**

- Adopted September 29, 1975
- Amended July 27, 1977
- Amended September 11, 1978
- Amended February 11, 1987
- Amended June 14, 1989
- Amended August 8, 1990
- Amended June 12, 1991
- Amended May 27, 1992
- Amended April 28, 1993
- Amended May 24, 1995
- Amended June 26, 2002
- Amended July 28, 2004
- Amended June 8, 2005

## **SECTION I - GENERAL**

1. The purpose of this publication is to set forth the policy and rules and regulations which have been adopted by the Board of Supervisors, Rockingham County, Virginia and which are applicable to the public water and sewer facilities of Rockingham County. This publication establishes policy, rates, fees, and rules and regulations which govern the use of the public water and sewer facilities and provides standards for connection to these facilities.
2. Inquiries for information or clarification of any item herein pertaining to matters concerning public water facilities should be directed to the Department of Public Works, Rockingham County Administration Center, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802. Telephone (564) 564-3020.

## **SECTION II - DEFINITIONS**

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used herein shall be as follows:

1. "Application for Service" shall mean the making of a written request for water and/or sewer service with the County.
2. "Billing Period" shall mean the basis used to bill for service in each area in which the County provides service.
3. "Board" shall mean Board of Supervisors, the governing body of Rockingham County, Virginia.
4. "Cessation of Service" shall mean cutting off of water meter and/or sewer service for non-payment of delinquent accounts.
5. "County" shall mean County of Rockingham, Virginia.
6. "Connection Requirements" shall mean the requirement of a separate connection for each dwelling unit, business and/or house unless the County shall authorize differently. Trailer Parks and Apartment Buildings shall be permitted to have a master water meter with the County to determine cost of connection by size water meter required. The County may require a sewage flow meter for purposes of billing for trailer parks and large developments. The Owner in these cases shall maintain all lines and facilities on his property.
7. "Customer" shall mean the party who has applied for water service at a premises.
8. "Delinquent Accounts" shall mean any account not paid within fifteen (15) days of billing date.
9. "Discontinuance of Service" shall mean the turning off of water upon request of the customer.
10. "Dwelling Unit" shall mean:
  - a. Each single family residential dwelling and each single family residential dwelling unit contained in an apartment building, in a duplex, in a two or more family residence, or in any building designed and used for residential purposes.

- b. Each separate unit contained in any structure used for any purposes other than residential.
- 11. "Facilities of the County" shall mean any and all components and pertinent parts of the entire system of the water and sewer facilities under the jurisdiction of the County, such as water and sewer pipe lines and other appurtenances, water storage tanks, filtration or treatment facilities and pumping stations and testing laboratories, including these items and others now constructed, installed, operated or maintained by the County or any which may be approved and accepted in the future as additions or extensions of the system.
- 12. "May" is permissive.
- 13. "Water Deposit" and "Sewer Deposit" shall mean that deposit required in advance of service.
- 14. "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, association, society or group.
- 15. "Premise" shall mean any building, group of buildings or land upon which buildings are to be constructed which is or may be served by the facilities of the County.
- 16. "Reconnection" shall mean restoring of service to accounts where service has for some reason been discontinued.
- 17. "Service Connection or Water Lateral" shall be the pipe extending from a water main to the outlet side of the meter setting in the meter box at the property, right-of-way, or easement line, including the meter and meter box.
- 18. "Sewer Connection or Lateral" shall be the pipe extending from the sewer main or manhole to the property, right-of-way, or easement line.
- 19. "Shall" is mandatory.
- 20. "Water or Sewer Line or Main" shall mean a pipe or conduit for transporting water or sewage.
- 21. "Water Treatment or Filtration Plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for the treatment of water.

### **SECTION III - POLICY**

- 1. It is the policy of the County to provide water and/or sewer service to any person, business, industry or area within Rockingham County where in the judgment of the County, it is economically feasible to do so.
- 2. In any area of the County where service may be provided, it will be the policy of the County to conform to and meet all requirements of all applicable State and Federal Regulatory Agencies and to apply all standards, rules and regulations and specifications of the County to those areas.

## **SECTION IV - FEES AND CHARGES**

Effective 9/29/05

Meter Size	Water Connection Fee	Sewer Connection Fee	GPM	Maximum Connections
3/4" Residential w/lateral installed	\$1,300	\$2,000	20	1
3/4"	\$1,600	\$2,400	20	1
1"	\$4,000	\$6,000	50	4
1 1/2"	\$8,000	\$12,000	100	10
2"	\$12,800	\$19,200	160	30
3"	\$25,600	\$38,400	300	75
4"	\$40,000	\$60,000	500	200
6"	\$80,000	\$120,000	1,000	600
8"	\$120,000	\$180,000	1,500	1,200
10"	\$200,000	\$300,000	2,500	3,000
12"	\$240,000	\$360,000	3,500	5,000

Effective 1/1/06

Meter Size	Water Connection Fee	Sewer Connection Fee	GPM	Maximum Connections
3/4" Residential w/lateral installed	\$1,600	\$2,500	20	1
3/4"	\$2,000	\$3,000	20	1
1"	\$5,000	\$7,500	50	4
1 1/2"	\$10,000	\$15,000	100	10
2"	\$16,000	\$24,000	160	30
3"	\$32,000	\$48,000	300	75
4"	\$50,000	\$75,000	500	200
6"	\$100,000	\$150,000	1,000	600
8"	\$150,000	\$225,000	1,500	1,200
10"	\$250,000	\$375,000	2,500	3,000
12"	\$300,000	\$450,000	3,500	5,000

Should the water meter need to be increased in size, an additional connection fee will be required. The additional connection fee shall be the difference between the fee that was initially paid and the fee in effect for the larger meter at the time of the increase.

1. IRRIGATION METERS

In areas where the residence is served by County water and sewer a separate meter for the purpose of irrigation will be installed upon payment of the connection fee and provided that no piping from this meter is connected within the residence. Irrigation meter service may be discontinued by the County during any given season due to drought or water supply limitations.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| A. 5/8" x 3/4" meter | \$ 250   |
| B. larger meter      | \$250 plus \$500 per 1/4" in additional size above 3/4". |

2. ROAD CROSSINGS - WATER

An additional fee of \$20.00 per linear foot of casing shall be assessed for work under paved surfaces and road crossings (open cut or bore) for water laterals 2 inches in diameter or less. Water laterals larger than 2 inches in diameter shall be run by the customer and at the customer's expense.

3. INDUSTRIAL

Special consideration shall be given new industrial waste dischargers. Essentially, consideration shall be based on population equivalent as to flow and waste characteristics. Exotic wastes shall be governed by Sewer Regulations adopted by the Authority.

4. ROAD CROSSINGS - SEWER

An additional fee of \$20.00 per linear foot shall be assessed for work under paved surfaces and road crossings (open cut or bore) for gravity sewer laterals 4 inches in diameter or less and pressurized laterals 2 inches in diameter or less. Gravity sewer laterals larger than 4 inches in diameter and pressurized laterals larger than 2 inches in diameter shall be run by the customer and at the customer's expense.

5. ROAD CROSSINGS - SEWER

In the event there is an existing connection for a property and the owner requests in writing that the County relocate the service, the fee shall be the actual cost of materials and labor to relocate the connection.

6. MONTHLY SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

- A. Residential of all types shall be billed monthly at the rate of \$3.19 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption.

- B. Commercial and Industrial shall be billed monthly at rate of \$3.19 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption plus any surcharge for extra strength waste or testing which may be levied by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority.

7. RESIDENTIAL SUMMERTIME SEWER USAGE

Beginning June 1, 2003, any residential sewer customer whose water consumption is metered as the basis for determining the monthly sewer service charge shall be eligible for reduced sewer service charges during the months of June, July and August to account for metered water that does not enter the sewer system. For those residential customers, sewer usage shall be the metered water usage for that month or the average for the previous months of November through April, whichever is less. The County may discontinue this policy during any given season due to drought or water supply limitations.

8. MONTHLY WATER SERVICE CHARGES

- |    |                        |                           |
|----|------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. | First 3,500 gallons    | \$ 9.63 - minimum bill    |
|    | Next 1,500 gallons     | \$ 1.96 per 1,000 gallons |
|    | All over 5,000 gallons | \$ 2.42 per 1,000 gallons |
- B. Residential Connections - the minimum monthly service charge for residential connections shall be \$ 9.63 for each month service is received.

9. RECONNECTION FEES

A fee of \$10.00 after discontinuance of service and \$25.00 after cessation of service shall be required to restore service. No water service will be turned on until all fees and charges are paid. If service is to be provided beyond the normal workday (7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday) the fee shall be \$35.00 in order to offset overtime labor expenses.

10. DEPOSIT - WATER

A deposit in the amount of \$30.00 shall be required for owner occupied structures. Tenants will be required to pay a deposit of \$45.00. The deposit will be retained by the County on a non-interest-bearing basis and will be refunded after a period of twelve consecutive months during which not more than one late payment has been received. The deposit shall be applied to the final bill of the customer upon discontinuance or cessation of service.

11. DEPOSIT – SEWER

A deposit in the amount of \$20.00 shall be required for owner occupied structures. Tenants will be required to pay a deposit of \$30.00. The deposit will be retained by the County on a non-interest-bearing basis and will be refunded after a period of twelve consecutive months during which not more than one late payment has been received. The deposit shall be applied to the final bill of the customer upon discontinuance or cessation of service.

12. LATE PAYMENT

All payment for service shall be due and payable within twenty (20) days of the billing date. A late payment charge of one (1) percent shall be applied to any balance carried forward to the next month.

**SECTION V - RULES FOR RENDERING OF WATER AND/OR SEWER SERVICE**

1. SERVICE CONNECTION

- A. Before a water or sewer service connection is provided, the owner of the premises to be supplied, or his duly authorized representative, shall apply for such service upon forms prescribed by the County and pay any required connection fee prior to obtaining a building permit for the premises. Upon approval of the application, and payment of the connection fee and other applicable charges, the County shall install the service connection. A separate service connection shall be required for each premises unless otherwise determined by the County. In the event the building permit expires, an additional connection fee will be required if that connection fee is higher than at the time of application. For a water or sewer connection that is for an existing dwelling, service must be connected within 6 months of application; if not, then an additional connection fee at the then applicable rate will be required if standard connection fees at the time of expiration are higher than at the time of connection.
- B. The County will make or have made all connections to its mains and will specify the location, size, kind and quality of all materials entering into the service connection.
- C. The service connection, including special connections for fire service or for service of a temporary nature, shall remain the property of the County and be under its sole control and jurisdiction and will be maintained by the County at its expense.
- D. The County will extend water and/or sewer laterals to the property or easement line or a distance of 50 feet, whichever is less. The owner shall be responsible for extensions beyond 50 feet.

## 2. CUSTOMER'S SERVICE PIPES

- A. The service pipe which shall be installed between the property or easement line and the place of consumption shall be furnished and installed by the customer at his expense and risk.
- B. The customer's service pipe and all connection and fixtures attached thereto shall be subject to the inspection and approval of the County before service is commenced.
- C. The customer's water service pipe shall be installed at least three feet below the surface of the ground in a trench which shall be at least ten feet in a horizontal direction from any other trench wherein are installed gas pipe, sewer pipe, or other facilities, public or private, unless otherwise specifically authorized or approved by the County.
- D. The customer shall install a stop and waste cock of a type approved by the Building Official on the water service pipe immediately inside the foundation wall of the building supplied, and so located as to be easily accessible to the occupants and to provide proper drainage for all of the pipe lines in the building.
- E. No fixture shall be attached to, or any branch made in, the service pipe between the meter and the water main.
- F. The customer at his expense and risk shall perform any repairs, maintenance, replacement or relocation necessary on the customer's service pipe or fixtures in or upon the customer's premises.

## 3. CROSS-CONNECTION AND BACK SIPHONAGE

- A. No fixture shall be attached. No pipe or fixtures connected with the mains of the County shall also be connected with pipes or fixtures supplied with water from any other source. This is a state law and severe penalties result in violation.
- B. Piping systems supplying swimming pools or tanks shall be so arranged as to prevent water from re-entering the water distribution system by siphonage or other means. An independent supply pipe shall be provided in such a way that its discharge end is at least two diameters above the highest possible water level in the swimming pool or tank. The County shall approve all such installation.
- C. The plumbing system in all premises supplied from the County's water system shall conform to all applicable codes of Rockingham County.
- D. A requirement of the State Department of Health is that a cross-connection control and backflow prevention program be established and enforced. To accomplish this the County will make periodic inspections and make recommendations to eliminate the possibility of contaminating the water supply.



#### 4. METERS AND METER INSTALLATIONS

- A. The County shall determine the location, type and size of meter to be installed.
- B. Meters will be furnished, installed and removed by the County and shall remain its property.
- C. Unless otherwise determined by the County, each premises shall be supplied through a separate meter, or if necessary and at the option of the County, through a separate battery of meters. Where a battery of meters is installed, the registrations of such meters shall be combined for billing purposes and shall be subject to a Minimum Charge as negotiated between the County and the Customer. Where, however, a premises is supplied through more than one service line, unless otherwise provided in contracts entered into therefore, the registration of the meter installed on each such service shall be billed separately, subject to the Minimum Charge for each meter. Meters will be read to the nearest 100 gallons.
- D. Meters will be maintained by the County at its expense insofar as ordinary wear is concerned, but damage to any meter due to causes arising out of or caused by the customer's facilities, operations, negligence or carelessness shall be paid for by the customer, except, however, the County shall be responsible for damage to meters due to freezing in outside meter vaults.
- E. The customer shall promptly notify the County of any defect in or damage to the meter or its connection.

#### 5. METER TESTS AND TEST FEES

- A. All meters will be accurately tested before installation. Meters will also be periodically tested in accordance with accepted practice. The County may at any time remove any meter for routine tests, repairs, or replacement.
- B. The County shall upon written request of a customer if he so desires in his presence or that of his authorized representative, make without charge a test of the accuracy of the meter in use at his premises, and that the customer will agree to abide by the results of such test in the adjustment of disputed charges. A written report of the results of the test shall be furnished to the customer.
- C. Whenever a test of a meter reveals it to have an average error above standards established by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the County shall bill or refund to the customer, as the case may be, such percentage of the amount of bills, covering the consumption indicated by the meter for the previous six months, as the meter was found to be in error at the time of test, unless it can be shown from the records of either party that the error found has existed for a greater or lesser period, in which case the adjustment shall cover such actual period.

6. BILLS FOR SERVICE

- A. Customers are responsible for furnishing the County with their correct address. Failure to receive bills will not be considered an excuse for non-payment, nor permit an extension of the date when the account will be considered delinquent.
- B. If bills are to be sent to an address other than the premises served, the County must be notified in writing by the customer of any change of address.
- C. If requested in writing by the customer, the County will send bills to and will receive payments from agents or tenants. However, this accommodation will in no way relieve the customer of the liability for all charges, the County shall not be obligated to notify the customer of the non-payment of bills by such agents or tenants.
- D. Payments shall be made at the office of the Treasurer of Rockingham County, Rockingham County Administration Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801, or at such other places as may be designated by the County from time to time.
- E. The County reserves the right to correct any bills rendered in error.
- F. Each "Premises" shall be billed separately for service.
- G. If a meter should fail to register for any reason, an estimated bill will be submitted. Such bill shall be based on an average of the consumption shown by three (3) consecutive billing periods, or, in the case of a new customer, where previous consumption cannot be used for computing average, reasonably estimated consumption shall be utilized.
- H. Meters will be read each month. Should meters not be able to be read due to being covered by snow or the like, estimated bill will be rendered as computed under 6.g. above.
- I. It is the responsibility of the customer to assure the meter box is not covered during normal weather.
- J. A requirement Bills for service shall be rendered monthly.

7. TERMS OF PAYMENT

- A. Bills for service shall be due and payable when rendered.
- B. If a bills is not paid within fifteen (15) days after the same shall become due and payable, and after notice properly given by the County to the customer of record, service may be discontinued and the meter removed by the County, and the deposit, if any, may be applied against such bill and any other arrears of the customer.

- C. There shall be a lien upon the real estate for the amount of any rates, fees, and other charges made by the County to the owner or lessee or tenant of such real estate for the services rendered by the County to such real estate from and after the time when such rates, fees and other charges are due and payable, and for the interest which may accrue thereon.

## 8. CUSTOMER'S LIABILITY FOR CHARGES

- A. Customer who has made application for or received service at a premises shall be held liable for all service furnished to such premises until such time as the customer properly notifies the County to discontinue the service on his account.

## 9. ABATEMENTS AND REFUNDS

There shall be not abatement of the Minimum Charges in whole or in part, by reason of the extended absence of the customer, unless service has been discontinued at his request, and no abatement shall be made for leaks or for water wasted by improper or damaged service pipes or fixtures belonging to the customer.

## 10. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

- A. Service may be discontinued by the County after five (5) days' notice for any of the following reasons:
- B. For willful or indifferent waste of water due to any cause.
- C. For failure to protect and maintain the service pipe or fixtures on the property of the customer in a condition satisfactory to the County.
- D. For molesting or tampering by the customer, or other with the knowledge of the customer, with any meter, connection, service pipe, curb stop, seal or any other appliance of the County controlling or regulating the customer's water supply.
- E. For failure to provide the County's employees free and reasonable access to the premises supplied, or for obstructing the way of ingress to the meter or other appliances controlling or regulating the customer's water supply.
- F. For non-payment of any account for water supplied or for any fee or charge accruing under these Rules and Regulations and the effective Schedules of Rates and Charges.
- G. For violation of any rule or regulation of the County.
- H. Discontinuing the supply of water to a premises for any reason shall not prevent the County from pursuing any lawful remedy by action at law or otherwise for the collection of moneys due from the customer.

- I. When water service to a customer has been terminated for any of the above stated reasons, other than temporary vacancy of the premises, it will be renewed only after the conditions, circumstances or practices which caused the water service to be discontinued are corrected to the satisfaction of the County and upon payment of all charges due and payable by the customer in accordance with these Rules and Regulations and the effective Schedules of Fees, Rates and Charges.

11. CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION

- A. That Section 6.00 Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention Control in Waterworks, Commonwealth of Virginia Waterworks Regulations is adopted as apart of these Rules and Regulations by reference.

B. Definitions

1. Air Gap Separation - The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening from any pipe or faucet supplying pure water to a tank, plumbing fixture, or other device and the rim of the receptacle.
  2. Auxiliary Water System - Any water system on or available to the premises other than the waterworks. These auxiliary waters may include water from another purveyor's waterworks; or water from a source such as wells, lakes, or streams; or process fluids; or used water. They may be polluted or contaminated or objectionable, or constitute a water source or system over which the water purveyor does not have control.
- C. Backflow - The flow of contaminants, pollutants, process fluids, used water, untreated waters, chemicals, gases, non-potable waters into any part of a waterworks.
- D. Backflow Prevention Device - Any approved device, method, or type of construction intended to prevent backflow into a waterworks.
- E. Consumer - The owner or person in control of any premises supplied by or in any manner connected to a waterworks.
- F. Consumer's Water System - Any water system located on the consumer's premises, supplied by or in any manner connected to a waterworks.
- G. Contamination - Any introduction into pure water of microorganisms, wastes, wastewater, undesirable chemicals or gases.
- H. Cross-Connection - Any connection or structural arrangement, direct or indirect, to the waterworks whereby backflow can occur.
- I. Degree of Hazard - This is a term derived from an evaluation of the potential risk to health and the adverse effect upon the waterworks.

- J. Double Gate-Double Check Valve Assembly - An approved assembly composed of two single, independently acting check valves including tightly closing shutoff valves located at each end of the assembly and petcocks and test gauges for testing the watertightness of each check valve.
- K. Health Hazard - Any condition, device, or practice in a waterworks or its operation that creates, or may create, a danger to the health and well-being of the water customer.
- L. Interchangeable Connection - An arrangement or device that will allow alternate but not simultaneous use of two sources of water.
- M. Pollution - The presence of any foreign substance (chemical, physical, radiological, or biological) in water that tends to degrade its quality so as to constitute an unnecessary risk or impair the usefulness of the water.
- N. Pollution Hazard - A condition through which an aesthetically objectionable or degrading material may enter the waterworks or a consumer's water system.
- O. Process Fluids - Any fluid or solution which may be chemically, biologically, or otherwise contaminated or polluted which would constitute a health, pollution, or system hazard if introduced into the waterworks. This includes but not limited to:
  - (a) Polluted or contaminated waters,
  - (b) Process waters,
  - (c) Used water originating from the waterworks which may have deteriorated in sanitary quality,
  - (d) Cooling waters,
  - (e) Contaminated natural water taken from wells, lakes, streams, or irrigation systems,
  - (f) Chemicals in solution or suspension, and
  - (g) Oils, gases, acids, alkalis, and other liquid and gaseous fluids used in industrial or other processes, or for fire fighting purposes.
- P. A requirement Pure Water or Potable Water - Water fit for human consumption and use which is sanitary and normally free of minerals, organic substances, and toxic agents in excess of reasonable amounts for domestic usage in the area served and normally adequate in supply for the minimum health requirement of the persons service.

- Q. Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Device - A device containing a minimum of two independently action check valves together with an automatically operated pressure differential relief valve located between the two check valves. During normal flow and at the cessation of normal flow, the pressure between these two check shall be less than the supply pressure. In case of leakage of either check valve, the differential relief valve, by discharging to the atmosphere, shall operate to maintain the pressure between the check valves at less than the supply pressure. The unit must include tightly closing shut-off valves located at each end of the device, and each device shall be fitted with properly located test cocks. These devices must be of the approved type.
- R. Service Connection - The terminal end of a service line from the waterworks. If a meter is installed at the end of the service, then the service connection means the downstream end of the meter.
- S. System Hazard - A condition posing an actual, or threat of, damage to the physical properties of the waterworks or a consumer's water system.
- T. Used Water - Any water supplied by a water purveyor from water works to a consumer's water system after it has passed through the service connection.
- U. Water Purveyor - An individual, group of individuals, partnership, firm, association, institution, corporation, municipal corporation, county, or authority which supplies water to any person within this State from or by means of any waterworks.
- (a) The County will cause inspections to be made of properties served by the waterworks where cross-connection with the waterworks is deemed possible. The frequency of inspections, and reinspections based on potential health hazards involved, shall be established by the County in the Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program and as approved by the Virginia Department of Health.
- (b) That the representative of the County shall have the right to enter at any reasonable time properties served by a connection to the waterworks of the County for the purpose of inspecting the piping system or systems for cross-connections. Upon request, the owner, or occupants, of property served shall furnish to the inspection agency pertinent information regarding the piping system or systems on such property.
- (c) That the water purveyor may deny or discontinue the water service to a consumer if the required backflow prevention device is not installed. If it is found that the device(s) has been removed or bypassed or if a cross-connection exists on the premises, or if the pressure in the waterworks is lowered below 10 psi gauge, the purveyor shall take positive action to insure that the waterworks is adequately protected at all times. Water service to such premises shall not be restored until deficiencies have been corrected or eliminated in accordance with Commonwealth of Virginia Waterworks Regulations and to the satisfaction of the purveyor.

- 2.1.2
- (d) That the potable water made available on the properties served by the waterworks shall be protected from possible contamination or pollution by enforcement of this ordinance and the Uniform Statewide Plumbing Code. Any water outlet which could be used for potable or domestic purposes and is not supplied by the potable system must be labeled as "Water Unsafe for Drinking" in a conspicuous matter.
  - (e) That this regulation is a supplement to the applicable plumbing codes.
  - (f) That any person or customer found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this regulation, or any written order of the County, in pursuance thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than (\$10) or more than (\$250) for each violation. Each day upon which a violation of the provisions of this act shall occur shall be deemed a separate and additional violation for the purposes of this resolution of regulation.